

JobSeeker Van Lease Program

Background

The Puget Sound region was awarded a Jobs Access and Reverse Commute grant from the Federal Transit Administration in the amount of \$1.9 million. King County Metro received \$740,500 from this grant to provide transportation for low-income and welfare populations. The grant provides support for a van program for select community agencies, an employer van demonstration, a ridematch program, a regional transit and ridematch information program and evaluation.

Program Objective:

The primary objective of the County's JobSeeker Van Program is to provide assistance for community-based organizations (CBOs) which will provide transportation for low-income and welfare clients who are transitioning into the workforce. Under the program, the County will provide low cost van leases to select CBOs under the auspices of target agencies such as the Department of Social and Health Services, Employment Security Department and the Seattle-King County Private Industry Council. The vans must be used to provide transportation for low-income clients to employment or training sites.

The intent of the program is to provide transportation that addresses barriers that regular public transportation cannot. The vans will fill gaps in existing transportation services and programs. For example, they may be used to provide clients with transportation to shift work, to childcare or to specialized training programs.

Vans will be provided to a limited number of CBOs. The County will determine and identify those CBOs that best support the goals of WorkFirst, the target social service agencies and low-income clients for receipt of a van.

Program Outline:

King County Metro will lease the vans to CBOs or target agencies and reimburse for costs pursuant to the Federal Transit Administration guidelines and County requirements. The vans will lease for \$300 per month. The lease will cover a negotiated period of time. The County will reimburse for installation of child seats or needed safety equipment for the vehicles. The County will also provide a backup vehicle while a van is being maintained or repaired.

Community-based organizations are expected to provide their own operators, scheduling, assignment of clients and other operational expenses as their share of the partnership match. CBOs must also carry the appropriate insurance and agree to indemnify the County as specified. Operators may be subject to specific federal or local requirements to drive the vans.

CBOs are expected to provide a 50% cash match as required by the Federal Transit Administration. Cash match may include funding support from target social service agencies. Federal funds other than those from the U.S. Department of Transportation may be used as match.

CBOs will be required to maintain trip logs and other records as specified by the County. They will also be responsible for providing quarterly information for the County's reports to the Federal Transit Administration and to assist the County in evaluation of the program.